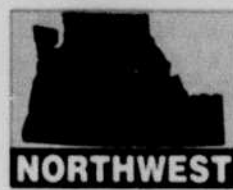


# Suicide laws gain little support



PORTLAND (AP) — Four months after Oregon voters approved the world's first assisted suicide law, the law has failed to spread across the nation as supporters hoped and opponents feared.

Since January, legislators in 10 states have introduced or promised laws similar to Measure 16, the so-called "Death with Dignity Act," passed by a slim 51 percent majority on Nov. 8.

But all of the bills face tough opposition. In three states, they have already expired in subcommittees.

"There aren't that many people willing to step up to this issue at this time," said Republican state Sen. Eugene Prince of Washington. The doctor-assisted suicide bill he co-sponsored was tabled in the Health and Long-Term Care Committee last week.

"Things in this legislative process need to be here and discussed for quite a few years before they move," Prince said, "especially if it's emotional or controversial as this."

Measure 16 has attracted powerful opponents, including the American Medical Association, the Roman Catholic Church and National Right to Life.

"One of the predictions was if Oregon goes, it will sweep the country," said Richard Doerflinger, a spokesman for Roman Catholic bishops. "But it's not even sweeping Oregon because of the lawsuit."

A federal judge in December blocked Measure 16 from going into effect after a National Right to Life attorney filed a lawsuit, arguing the law violates constitutional protections.

At a hearing last Tuesday in Eugene, the case was delayed again until the judge and a federal appeals panel can establish jurisdiction. The constitutional arguments probably won't be heard until April

18. On Friday, the American Civil Liberties Union said it would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that a Michigan assisted-suicide ban violates the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and its guarantee of individual rights.

But the high court may not take on the issue until there are more lower court decisions, according to legal analysts.

Meanwhile, right-to-die activists are reorganizing.

"There was great joy over the victory in Oregon," said Derek Humphry, author of the bestselling *Final Exit* and head of the Euthanasia Research & Guidance Organization, based in Junction City. "Now it has settled down to the realization that we have a long way to go."

Humphry is trying to do his part through "Death-NET," connecting right-to-die advocates around the world through the computer technology of the Internet. More than 2,000 people have used the service so far.

Assisted-suicide opponents have their own plans. The American Medical Association has formed a task force to fight state assisted suicide proposals.

Dr. Thomas Reardon of Portland, an AMA board member heading the task force, was in New Mexico last week to lobby against a bill that would have gone beyond the Oregon measure.

The New Mexico proposal would have allowed assisted suicide for those with "chronic or intractable pain" that is not fatal. The Oregon law allows only terminal patients with less than six months to live to ask a doctor for a fatal prescription.

The New Mexico bill was tabled by a 6-1 vote of that state's Senate Judiciary Committee last Monday.

# Redeployment plan will improve fire responses

Suzanne Marta  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene City Council voted Monday to spend \$77,000 to move into the second phase of its fire redeployment plan.

The second phase includes:

- Building a new "master" station in the Chambers Connector area, which would also include a training facility, drill field and smoke tower, a logistics facility and a district chief quarters; and

- Building a new neighborhood station with an "emergency operations center" and district chief quarters in the Coburg/Willakenzie area.

The first phase of the redeployment plan opened a fire station on Bailey Hill Road, and fully staffed the station at 17th Avenue and Agate Street.

The redeployment plan is designed to improve the city's emergency response to life-threatening incidents to a four-minute standard.

The standard is based on the fact that irreversible brain

damage occurs after four minutes without oxygen. A four-minute response is a fire industry standard to prevent "flash over," or simultaneous combustion of everything in the fire area.

This standard is currently unmet in some areas without close emergency services or fully staffed existing stations.

Councilwoman Barbara Keller said she had concerns with the plans for a fire training facility.

"A lot of us were feeling like it was going to be a Disneyland for fire fighters," Keller said.

Eugene City Manager Mike Gleason said the training facilities were necessary for emergency services training.

"It's an integral part of operations in the city," Gleason said. "It's not like training for a supervisor or a manager. You have to have adequate facilities."

Gleason said different environmental conditions were necessary to adequately train fire fighters.

# New AIDS ads attempt to improve self-esteem

SEATTLE (AP) — Self-esteem, not education, may be the key to getting gay men to practice safe sex, and advocates are betting \$100,000 on a commercial television campaign to encourage the practice.

"People won't take care of themselves if they don't care for themselves," said Robert Wood, director of AIDS control for the Seattle-King County Health Department.

"A lot of studies show most gay men know what they need to do," Wood said. "Knowledge is not lacking, but what is lacking is self-esteem among many and a sense the community cares."

The television campaign, designed by the Northwest AIDS Foundation, is in response to what appears to be a second wave of HIV/AIDS on the West Coast as many gay men, some fatalistic about their prospects of survival, revert to unsafe sex.

The television campaign is the first time gay pride has been used to motivate gay men to practice safe sex and HIV/AIDS prevention, its promoters say.

The 30-second commercial shows soft-toned pictures of men as an announcer says: "He is tall, he is short, he is dark, he is light. He is strong and weak. ... He is sexy, he is shy."

The commercial ends with the announcer saying: "He is gay, and he is proud. Ending AIDS begins with pride."

The commercial will be aired on television shows viewed widely by young men, including *The Simpsons*, *The X-Files*, *Saturday Night Live* and even *Bush Limbaugh*.

"This campaign is about staying alive and the need to value yourself, ... to make people relate to their humanity in order to protect it," said Martin McCombs, a psychologist who heads the foundation's education program.

The campaign was financed with private donations raised by the Northwest AIDS Foundation. The ads will be shown during the first half of March and the last half of June.

Television stations have supported the ads, agreeing to reduced rates and promising to provide a portion of the air time free, said Liz Smith, the foundation's communications director.

## OPENING

Continued from Page 1

Recent polls have shown that 58 percent of people polled wanted the council to submit a plan for the street's reopening.

Councilwoman Laurie supported the council's move.

"Spending inordinate funds to design a street before finding out if the voters actually want it opened would be a waste of money," she said.

Swanson-Gribskov said referring the issue to the voters would enable the council to concentrate on other important issues such as public safety and fire redeployment.

Councilwoman Barbara Keller was the only council member to

oppose the plan.

"We don't know exactly how much it's going to cost or how it's going to look," she said.

Keller said she was not opposed to reopening the street in general, but to the "flawed process" that leaves many questions unanswered.

"I would be more supportive if the private sector, who will be reaping the majority of the benefits from reopening the street, were paying for the majority of the costs," she said.

Under the current plan, the private sector is estimated to contribute approximately \$100,000, with the rest of the costs funded by the Urban Renewal Fund and the Lane County Road Fund.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sponsored by the ASUO Women's Center

# TODAY'S EVENTS



### WORKSHOPS

**Lesbian Relationships**, Kathy Sullivan & Robin Holmes - Counseling Center / Oak Room, 11:00-12:00

**Self Help Slide Show**, Feminist Women's Health Center / Ben Linder, 12:00-2:00

**Highlights in Lesbian History**, An Exhibit by LGBA / Cedar B, 12:00-2:00

**Indehuming a Voice from the Past: Prostitution in America (1880-1920) & Exhuming a Voice from the Past: Birth Trauma on Black Mesa,**

AZ (AD 800-1150) Papers presented by Heather Miller and Doug Seefeldt / Cedar D, 12:00-1:30

**Sexual Harassment, UO & Law**, Ken Lehrman - Affirmative Action / Maple Room, 1:00-2:30

**Educational Issues for Non-Traditional Women**, Deb Casey, Donna Wong, Evan Smith from EOP / Oak Room, 2:00-3:00

**Ecofeminism**, Irene Diamond / Fir Room, 2:00-3:00

**Women & Aids**, Jeanne Block - HIV Alliance / Maple Room, 3:00-5:00

**Asian American Women and the Media**, Linda Liu, Sho Shigeokga, APASU / Oak Room, 4:00-5:00

**Self Defense for Women**, Susan Trests / Walnut Room, 4:30-6:00

**Women in Campus Politics**, ASUO elected students / Maple Room, 6:00-7:30

### ART/HOSPITALITY ROOM

Fir Room / 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Women's Art Display** - Sponsored by the YWCA / 11:00-5:00

**Native American Women Dance Troupe** - Sponsored by NASU / 3:00-4:30

**Amy Gaudia** - an Ecofeminist Singer, Songwriter / 5:00-6:30

### FILM SERIES

Ben Linder Room / 11:00 a.m. - Noon, 2:00-8:00 p.m.

### FOR DETAILS

Stop by the Women's Center, Suite 3, EMU or call 346-4095 / TDD 346-0643.